

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute the following claims for the same-numbered claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of incrementally maintaining algebraic functions in automatic summary tables (ASTs) of at least one relational database, said method comprising:

associating a work area with each algebraic function in each AST;

populating variables within each work area for each algebraic function when each AST is created and when each AST is updated;

maintaining each work area by adding and subtracting to and from associated variables of each work area when associated data changes in said relational database; ~~and~~

computing each algebraic function; and

reporting said algebraic functions to a user.

2. (Original) The method in claim 1, wherein multiple algebraic functions share the same work area.

3. (Original) The method in claim 2, wherein said multiple algebraic function share the same work area when one of: said algebraic function match exactly; said algebraic functions match partially; and said algebraic functions have an intersection.

4. (Original) The method in claim 1, wherein said computing process comprises recomputing said algebraic function after one or more of said variables have changed.

5-7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) A method of updating an automatic summary table (AST), wherein said AST stores derived data from multiple dynamic data tables and said AST comprises multiple algebraic functions, said method comprising:

creating a separate work area for each algebraic function within said AST;
maintaining each work area by adding and subtracting to and from associated variables of each work area when associated data changes in said relational database; ~~and~~
integrating said changes into said AST by computing each algebraic function; and
reporting said algebraic functions to a user.

9. (Original) The method in claim 8, wherein multiple algebraic functions share the same work area.

10. (Original) The method in claim 9, wherein said multiple algebraic function share the same work area when one of:

said algebraic function match exactly;
said algebraic functions match partially; and

said algebraic functions have an intersection.

11. (Original) The method in claim 8, wherein said computing process comprises recomputing said algebraic function after one or more of said variables have changed.

12-14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) A method of incrementally maintaining algebraic functions in automatic summary tables (ASTs) of at least one relational database, said method comprising:

associating a work area with each algebraic function in each AST;

populating variables within each work area for each algebraic function when each AST is created and when each AST is updated;

maintaining each work area by adding and subtracting to and from associated variables of each work area when associated data changes in said relational database; ~~and~~

recomputing said algebraic function after one or more of said variables have changed; and

reporting said algebraic functions to a user.

16. (Original) The method in claim 15, wherein multiple algebraic functions share the same work area.

17. (Original) The method in claim 16, wherein said multiple algebraic function share the same work area when one of:

said algebraic function match exactly;

said algebraic functions match partially; and

said algebraic functions have an intersection.

18-20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform a method of incrementally maintaining algebraic functions in automatic summary tables (ASTs) of at least one relational database, said method comprising:

associating a work area with each algebraic function in each AST;

populating variables within each work area for each algebraic function when each AST is created and when each AST is updated;

maintaining each work area by adding and subtracting to and from associated variables of each work area when associated data changes in said relational database; ~~and~~

computing each algebraic function; and

reporting said algebraic functions to a user.